

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/528,409
Attorney Docket: VERC3005/JEK

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A transfer gripper for a rapier weaving loom, comprising a base body and at least first and second yarn clamps arranged to retain in readiness relative to the base body a length of a weft yarn to be taken up by a receiving gripper, said length of weft yarn during operation of the transfer gripper extending between the yarn clamps in extended and tensioned condition to enable the respective weft yarn to be taken up by a receiving gripper; and further, said second yarn clamp comprising at least one resilient clamping element resiliently yieldable in response to additional tensile force applied to the length of weft yarn to permit deflection of the length of weft yarn between the yarn clamps in response to the additional tensile force while maintaining the length of weft yarn extended in tension between the yarn clamps.

15. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 14, said including a resilient biasing element cooperating with the second yarn clamp clamping element and located rearwardly of the second yarn clamp clamping element relative to a leading end of the weft yarn.

16. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 14, said including a resilient biasing element cooperating with the second yarn clamp clamping element.

17. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 16, wherein the resilient biasing element is arranged to constitute a weft yarn clamping part of the second yarn clamp clamping element.

18. (Previously Presented) The transfer gripper of claim 14, said base body including first and second side walls, a top side and a bottom; a first yarn guide disposed in the region of said first side wall and the bottom, and a second yarn guide

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disposed in the region of the second side wall and the top side; said first and second yarn clamps respectively disposed in the vicinity of said first and second yarn guides.

19. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 14, including a fixed clamping face cooperating with said resilient ~~resiliently yieldable clamping element~~ for engaging and retaining said length of weft yarn.

20. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 19, wherein said resilient clamping element is arranged so as to be movable away from the fixed clamping face in response to a tensile force applied to the length of weft yarn extending between the first and second yarn clamps.

21. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 20, wherein the resilient ~~clamping element~~ is arranged so that it is rotatable about an axis extending along a direction of motion of the transfer gripper in response to an additional tensile force applied to the length of weft yarn extending between the yarn clamps.

22. (Previously Presented) The transfer gripper of claim 19, said base including an inner face of a top side of the base body, said inner face comprising said fixed clamping face.

23. (Previously Presented) The transfer gripper of claim 19, said fixed clamping face comprising a clamping piece mounted on the base body.

24. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 14, said resilient clamping element comprising a leaf spring.

25. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 14, said resilient clamping element including a guide element protruding outwardly towards a front end of the base body, and below the region of a clamping location of the second yarn clamp.

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26. (Previously Presented) The transfer gripper of claim 14, wherein a clamping location of the second yarn clamp is disposed rearwardly relative to the first yarn clamp and relative to a leading end of the weft yarn.

27. (Previously Presented) The transfer gripper of claim 14, said base body including a side wall and a yarn guide defined at least in part by the side wall, said side wall further defining a yarn stop, wherein the clamping location of the second yarn clamp is located forward of the yarn stop relative to an advancing direction of motion of the transfer gripper in operation.

28. (Currently Amended) The transfer gripper of claim 14, said at least one resilient clamping element comprising a pair of resilient ~~clamping~~ elements disposed lengthwise along the length of weft yarn, said pair of resilient ~~clamping~~ elements having different resilient yielding strengths for responding differently to additional tensile forces applied to the length of weft yarn, and wherein the resilient ~~clamping~~ element located closer to the first yarn clamp ~~clamping element~~ has a lower yielding strength than the other resilient ~~clamping~~ element.